

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

A COUPLING DEVICE FOR RESTRAINING BELTS, PARTICULARLY FOR  
CHILDREN'S SAFETY SEATS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a coupling device for restraining belts,  
particularly for children's safety seats used in motor vehicles.

[0002] The restraining belts for children's safety seats for motor vehicles are typically  
constituted by three or five branches, one of which is attached at one of its free ends to  
the body of a coupling device, or buckle. The other two or four branches are attached at  
their free ends to respective latching elements, or tongues, adapted to be inserted and  
locked in the buckle body.

[0003] A coupling device of this kind is known for example from European Patent  
application EP-A-1 295 541.

[0004] According to the prior art, the tongues (or the tongue, where a restraining system  
with only two branches is used) comprise an elongated metal stem, the free end portion of  
which is variously shaped so as to engage in the buckle body. The stem of the tongue  
extends from an attachment portion adapted to be connected to the belt and generally  
made of plastic, in which a slot is provided for connection to the end of the associated  
branch of the belt. However, such tongues suffer from the drawback that the metal part

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